



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

Guilty pleas entered in faked-goods case

Brother, sister to pay fines and restitution for trafficking in counterfeit goods

Little Rock, Ark.--Michael A. Holt, Special Agent-In-Charge of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in New Orleans and United States Attorney Bud Cummins announced yesterday that Jamileh K. Afsordeh (aka Kobra Afsordeh, aka Jamileh Kamran,) 52, and her brother Jalil Kamran, (aka Jim Kamran,) 56, both of Little Rock, Arkansas, waived indictment and entered felony guilty pleas on Wednesday, March 15, 2006, before United States District Judge J. Leon Holmes. The guilty pleas stem from their roles in trafficking in counterfeit goods.

According to testimony in court, ICE agents received information regarding the sale of counterfeit goods in certain locations in Little Rock. Following the purchase of several counterfeit items, a search warrant was executed on Aug. 24, 2005 by ICE special agents at the Jamileh Kamran Store, owned by Jamileh K. Afsordeh, and the Rejuvenation Clinic and Day Spa, owned by Jalil Kamran. During the search of the two businesses, agents seized hundreds of counterfeit Louis Vuitton, Prada, Burberry, Kate Spade, Chanel, Coach, Fendi and Gucci purses, wallets, and other items. Additionally, ICE special agents seized hundreds of counterfeit labels, which had not yet been attached to merchandise. The agents also seized several letters from at least one victim going back as far as 2002, warning Jamileh to cease and desist the selling of counterfeit merchandise.

Both Jamileh K. Msordeh and Jalil Kamran pled guilty to trafficking in counterfeit goods, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2320. The maximum statutory penalty is not more than 10 years imprisonment and/or not more than a fine of 2 million dollars with 3 years of supervised release.

Each defendant agreed to pay a \$10,000.00 fine and \$2,470.52 in restitution and to forfeit any and all counterfeit items. They also agreed to cooperate in on-going investigations against others involved in trafficking counterfeit goods.

"These are important investigations because businesses have a right to protect their trademarks. In fact, many consumers buy on the basis of brand name alone and they have the right to expect that they are getting genuine merchandise," stated Cummins.

"The creation, smuggling and sale of counterfeit goods is not a victimless crime," said Michael A. Holt, special agent-in-charge of the ICE office in New Orleans. "Products that are produced illegally do harm to trademark holders, may be smuggled into the country and distributed by organized crime groups. ICE is committed to an aggressive approach towards enforcing the nation's Intellectual Property Rights laws."

Special agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) conducted the investigation. Assistant U. S. Attorney Jeffrey P. La Vicka represented the United States.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.